



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: Akio Sakura
Appln. No.: 09/640,155
Filed: August 16, 2000
For: METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING
SPARK PLUG AND SPARK PLUG
Attorney Docket No: 8481-033

Examiner: Karabi Guharay
Art Unit: 2879

MS After Final
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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*Please
enter the
Amendment
K. Guharay
12/10/03*

RESPONSE

In response to the Office Action mailed September 3, 2003, Applicant respectfully requests the sole remaining rejection of the claims be withdrawn and that the application, with all claims, be allowed for the reasons set forth in the remarks herein.

Remarks

The Examiner's recognition of Applicant's invention by the allowance of claims 1-9 and 11 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Applicant's description of a known process for manufacturing spark plugs, which is included in the Background of the Invention in the present application.

The conventional method, as described in the application and summarized in the rejection, utilizes a rubber tube fitted onto the free-end portion of the ground electrode to prevent contact with the plating solution, page 3, lines 3-7. Because of the rubber tube, zinc plating and chromate treatment are limited to the exposed portion of the ground electrode.